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By:

Gina Simon

Corres. and Mail  
BOX AF

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED  
EXAMINING GROUP 1631**

PATENT

Confirmation No. 8762

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 04853.0074-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Kunio SHIOTA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1631  
Application No.: 09/881,748 ) Examiner: John S. Brusca  
Filed: June 18, 2001 )  
For: METHOD OF IDENTIFYING )  
CELLS USING DNA )  
METHYLATION PATTERNS )  
                        ) **Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Applicants now respond to the Final Office Action dated December 24, 2003. A petition for a Two Month Extension of Time and the requisite fee are filed herewith. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper at pages 2-5.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendments section of this paper at page 6.